What is claimed is:

1   1. A signal-to-text conversion gateway comprising:

2   a receiver that receives signals from a source;

3   a converter that converts some received said signals into a change of a

4   current conversion mode of the converter, and converts other received said

5   signals into a first or a second type of characters depending on the current

6   conversion mode of the converter; and

7   a transmitter that transmits the characters to a destination;

8   the converter being responsive to a signal received from the destination by

9   changing the converter's said current conversion mode for converting the signals

10   received from the source.

1   2. The gateway of claim 1 wherein:

2   the signals received from the source comprise teletype tones;

3   the first type of characters comprises letters; and

4   the second type of characters comprises figures.

1   3. A method of converting signals into text, comprising:

2   receiving signals from a source;

3   converting some received signals into a change of a current conversion

4   mode;

5   converting other received signals into a first or a second type of

6   characters, depending on the current conversion mode;

7   transmitting the characters to a destination; and

8   in response to receiving a signal from the destination, changing the

9   current conversion mode for converting the signals received from the source.

1   4. The method of claim 3 wherein:

2   the signals received from the source comprise teletype tones;

3   the first type of characters comprises letters; and

4   the second type of characters comprises figures.

1   5. An end-user device comprising:

2   a receiver that receives a first type or a second type of characters;

3   a presenting device that presents the received characters to a user; and

4   a converter that responds to a signal by converting the received one of the

5   first and the second type of characters into the other of the first and the second

6   type of characters and causes the presenting device to present to the user the

7   converted characters instead of the received characters.

1   6. The end-user device of claim 5 wherein:

2   the first type of characters comprises letters;

3   the second type of characters comprises figures; and

4   the converter converts letters having teletype signal representations into

5   figures having same said teletype signal representations, and vice versa.

1   7. The end-user device of claim 6 wherein:

2   the converter receives the signal from the user.

1   8. The end-user device of claim 7 wherein:

2   the user generates the signal upon being presented with a nonsensical

3   sequence of characters.

1   9. The end-user device of claim 6 wherein:

2   the signal is generated automatically by the end-user device.

1   10. The end-user device of claim 9 wherein:

2   the end-user device generates the signal in response to analyzing a

3   sequence of the presented characters and determining that the analyzed

4   character sequence is nonsensical.

1   11. A method of operating an end-user device comprising:

2   receiving a first type or a second type of characters;

3   presenting the received characters to a user;

4   in response to receiving a signal, converting the received one of the first

5 and the second type of characters into the other of the first and the second type

6 of characters; and

7   presenting the converted characters to the user instead of the received

8 characters.

1   12. The method of claim 11 wherein:

2   the first type of characters comprises letters;

3   the second type of characters comprises figures; and

4   converting comprises

5   converting letters having teletype signal representations into figures

6 having same said teletype signal representations, and vice versa.

1   13. The method of claim 12 wherein:

2   converting comprises

3   receiving the signal from the user.

1   14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

2   the user being presented with a nonsensical sequence of characters; and

3   in response, the user initiating the signal.

1   15. The method of claim 12 wherein:

2   converting comprises

3   the end-user device automatically generating the signal.

1   16. The method of claim 15 wherein:

2   generating the signal comprises

3   the end-user device analyzing a sequence of the received characters; and

3 the end-user device analyzing a sequence of the received characters; and

4 in response to determining that the analyzed character sequence is

5 nonsensical, the end-user device generating the signal.

1 17. An end-user device comprising:

2 a receiver that receives a first type or a second type of characters from a

3 converter that converts first signals into the first or the second type of characters,

4 depending on a current conversion mode of the converter:

5 a presenting device that presents the received characters to a user; and

6 a transmitter that responds to input from the user by transmitting a second

7 signal to the converter that causes the converter to change the converter's said

8 current conversion mode for converting the first signals.

1 18. The device of claim 17 wherein:

2 the first signals comprise teletype tones;

3 the first type of characters comprises letters; and

4 the second type of characters comprises figures.

1 19. The device of claim 18 wherein:

2 the user generates the input in response to being presented with a

3 nonsensical sequence of characters.

1 20. A method of operating an end-user device comprising:

2 receiving a first type or a second type of characters from a converter that

3 converts first signals into the first or the second type of characters, depending on

4 a current conversion mode of the converter;

5 presenting the received characters to a user;

6 in response to input from the user, transmitting a second signal to the

7 converter that causes the converter to change the converter's said current

8 conversion mode for converting the first signals.

1   21. The method of claim 20 wherein:

2   the first signals comprise teletype tones;

3   the first type of characters comprises letters; and

4   the second type of characters comprises figures.

1   22. The method of claim 21 further comprising:

2   the user generating the input in response to being presented with a

3 nonsensical sequence of characters.